

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ATHENS 08021 301541Z

ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PM-05 DHA-05 EB-08

INR-07 PA-02 PRS-01 SCSE-00 SCA-01 FDRE-00 SS-15

SSO-00 INRE-00 SP-02 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 USIE-00

INT-05 AGRE-00 /109 W

-----114672 301608Z /43

O R 301431Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2256

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

SECDEF

JCS

USCINCEUR

CSA

CNO

CSAF

USAFE RAMSTEIN

EUCOM VAIHINGEN

16 AF TORREJON AB

7206ABG HELLENIKON AB

MAC SCOTT AB

CJUSMAAG ATHENS

UNCLAS ATHENS 8021

FOR AID/OFDA; PLEASE PASS U.S. FOREST SERVICE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, GR

SUBJ: FOREST FIRES IN GREECE

REF: (A) STATE 206184; (B) STATE 206500

1. SUMMARY: GOVERNMENT OF GREECE AND EMBASSY GREATLY APPRECIATE RESPONSIVENESS OF ADDRESSEES AND ASSISTANCE RENDERED TO DATE. FIRE WHICH THREATENED ATHENS SUBURBS LAST
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ATHENS 08021 301541Z

WEEKEND HAS BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL, SO THERE IS NO LONGER URGENT NEED FOR U.S. EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING IMMEDIATE VISIT OF MR.DE BROUIN. HOWEVER, THREE OTHER FIRES CONTINUE TO BURN IN OUTLYING AREAS AND THERE IS STILL DANGER THAT MAJOR FIRES MAY BREAK OUT IN GREECE DURING REMAINDER OF THIS FIRE SEASON WHICH GOG MIGHT BE UNABLE TO CONTROL WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES. THEREFORE, AGRICULTURE

MINISTRY HAS ASKED THAT CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION FOR REQUESTING EMERGENCY DISASTER ASSISTANCE DEVELOPED IN THE PAST TWO DAYS REMAIN OPEN ON A CONTINGENCY BASIS THROUGH END OF SEPTEMBER, IF POSSIBLE. OVER THE LONGER TERM, GOG REQUESTS TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN MODERN FIRE-FIGHTING AND FIRE CONTROL TECHNIQUES, BECAUSE THE SERIOUS PROBLEM OF FOREST FIRES RECURS EVERY SUMMER. END SUMMARY.

2. BOTH GOVERNMENT OF GREECE AND EMBASSY GREATLY APPRECIATE THE RAPID AND HELPFUL ASSISTANCE BY OFFICE OF FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, U.S. FORESTRY SERVICE, CINCEUR ELEMENTS AND DEPT. IN RESPONSE TO OUR REQUESTS FOR HELP IN CONTROLLING GREEK FOREST FIRES. FORTUNATELY, THE FIRE ON MT. PARNES WHICH WAS OUT OF CONTROL BECAUSE OF STRONG WINDS AND WAS THREATENING ATHENS SUBURBS HAS NOW BEEN BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL AND NO LONGER POSES AN IMMINENT THREAT RE-QUIRING EMERGENCY U.S. ASSISTANCE. AT THIS TIME THREE OTHER FOREST FIRES ARE BLAZING IN GREECE, TWO IN THE PELOPONESSUS NEAR THE CITIES OF PYRGOS AND CORINTH, AND ONE ON THE ISLAND OF ZAKINTHOS. THE LAST IS OUT OF CONTROL BUT THE GOG FEELS IT CAN BE HANDLED WITH AVAILABLE RESOURCES. THEREFORE WE RECOMMEND THAT MR. DE BROUIN'S VISIT BE CLEARLY CONCERNED THAT OTHER MAJOR FIRES MAY BREAK OUT IN GREECE DURING THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR'S FIRE SEASON, WHICH LASTS AT LEAST THROUGH SEPTEMBER. BECAUSE OF THE UNUSUALLY HOT, DRY WEATHER THIS SUMMER, THE NUMBER OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ATHENS 08021 301541Z

FIRES TO DATE HAS BEEN HIGH--705 THUS FAR IN 1977, COMPARED WITH AN ANNUAL AVERAGE OF AROUND 650. APPROXIMATELY 75,000 ACRES OF FOREST LAND HAVE BEEN DESTROYED THIS YEAR AND THERE HAS BEEN ONE DEATH AND SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY DESTRUCTION. THE THREE AVAILABLE GREEK FIRE-FIGHTING AIRCRAFT HAVE BEEN UTILIZED TO THE POINT OF PILOT EXHAUSTION. THEREFORE, THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE REQUESTS THAT THE CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION FOR REQUESTING EMERGENCY U.S. ASSISTANCE ESTABLISHED DURING THE LAST TWO DAYS REMAIN OPEN THROUGH THE END OF THE FIRE SEASON ON A STANDBY BASIS, IN CASE GREEK RESOURCES ARE UNABLE TO HANDLE EXPECTED FUTURE FIRES.

4. THE GOG IS FACED EVERY YEAR WITH NEW FIRES EVERY DAY DURING THE FIRE SEASON, RESULTING IN DAMAGE AND DESTRUCTION TO FOREST LAND THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND THREATS TO POPULATED AREAS. THEREFORE, WHEN THE FIRE SEASON IS OVER IT WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO HAVE U.S. TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE IN ADVANCED FIRE-FIGHTING AND FIRE CONTROL TECHNIQUES TO PREPARE ITSELF FOR HANDLING FUTURE FIRES MORE EFFECTIVELY. IF MR. DE BROUIN COULD PROVIDE THIS TYPE OF EXPERTISE, PERHAPS HIS TRIP COULD BE RESCHEDULED

FOR MID- OR LATE OCTOBER.
MILLS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, FOREST FIRES, FIRES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS08021
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770313-0500
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770810/aaaaaiba.tel
Line Count: 118
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 49a98c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 206184, 77 STATE 206500
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1398053
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREST FIRES IN GREECE
TAGS: SWEL, GR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/49a98c4e-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009